Acute water shortage

1469. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is likely to face acute water shortage by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the quantum of availability of fresh water in the country has dropped drastically as compared to last few years;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to meet the shortage of fresh water and its conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Acute water shortage is not anticipated by 2020 for the country as a whole.

(c) No trend has been noticed in respect of reduction in average annual quantum of availability of fresh water in India.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The demand for water for various purposes is increasing due to population growth, urbanization and industrialisation. Therefore the need for the utmost efficiency in water utilisation and a public awareness of the importance of its conservation has been highlighted in the National Water Policy. The National Water Policy states that (a) the water resources should be conserved, (b) water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilisable resources to the maximum possible extent, (c) efficiency of utilisation in all diverse uses of water should be optimised and (d) there is urgent need of paradigm shift in the management of water resources sector. Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies, scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells etc.

Mullaperiyar Dam

1470. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Expert Committee report on the deterioration of the upstream face of the Mullaperiyar Dam which has said that there was no alternative other than the construction of new dam downstream to replace the old dam;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government could not start construction of the new dam until the Supreme Court gave its verdict on the case filed by Tamil Nadu;

(c) whether the Kerala State Government has sought the intervention of the Prime Minister for a political settlement of the dispute; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) to (c) be in positive, the full details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Government of Kerala *vide* letter dated 25.6.2009 has forwarded the inspection report of the committee constituted by them for inspecting Mullaperiyar dam. It is mentioned in the report that there is no alternative other than the construction of a new dam on the down stream area.

(b) The Government of Tamil Nadu field on Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 in respect of Mullapariyar Dam before the Hon'ble Supreme Court on 31.3.2006. The Government of Tamil Nadu *vide* letter dated 8.12.2008. informed that the Supreme Court in its order dated 13.12.2007 has framed eleven issues and one of them is related to construction of new dam. The matter is subjudice.

(c) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala *vide* letter dated 16.6.2009 has requested Hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene and prevail upon the Government of Tamil Nadu to take up speedy implementation of the recommendations of the committee referred at Para (a) above.

(d) In this regard, Ministry of Water Resources has directed Central Water Commission (CWC) to send a team to the Mulla Periyar Dam for assessing it's present condition and look into the issues raised in the report of the committee.

Average monsoon rainfall

†1471. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country gets average monsoon rains from May to the end of September;

(b) if not, the facts thereof and the month-wise percentage of total monsoon rains between May and September and the total annual volume of water made available in the country by average monsoon rainfall; and

(c) of this available quantity of water, the volume which is conserved and used in different areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.